THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government of Assam had proposed a total of 96 schemes for inclusion under "Flood Management Programme" for the year 2007-08; out of which 75 schemes were sanctioned.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per information supplied by Government of Assam, most of the embankments were constructed before eighties and have completed 25 years.

(c) Under the constitution of India, flood management being a State subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance, which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. However, in November, 2004, a State sector scheme of Rs. 150 Crore was approved by the Government of India for taking up critical flood control and anti-erosion schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys. The scheme was executed by concerned State Governments. The scheme namely, "Critical Flood Control and Anti-erosion Schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys" was revised upwardly for a total cost of Rs. 225 Crore during the Tenth plan period; to include the works on the Task Force recommendations, under Immediate and short Term-I category.

During Eleventh plan period, a State Sector scheme under Central plan, namely, 'Flood management Programme' has been approved in principle, at an estimated cost of Rs. 8000 crore by the Cabinet for providing central assistance to State Government for ongoing and new works relating to river management, flood control, anti erosion, drainage development and flood proofing works, in critical areas. Under the said scheme, an amount of Rs. 90 crore has been released to Assam as first instalment of Central assistance for 73 schemes in Assam.

Sardar Sarovar Project

446. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has been requesting time and again to grant a status of Infrastructure Project to Sardar Sarovar Project and also for declaring it as National Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Central Government thereto;

(c) the reason for not declaring it as a National Asset alongwith 14 river projects declared as a National Asset in February, 2008 in the country though Sardar Sarovar Project is the largest water resources development project of its type in the country and also in the wider interest of four States, *viz.* Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan; and

(d) what are the criteria for deciding a River Project as a National Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, The Chief Minister of Gujarat has sent a request to Planning Commission to declare Sardar Sarovar Project as a National Project. Sardar

Sarovar Project is already eligible for 90% Central grant for the irrigation component of the project falling under drought prone and tribal area. The Power Houses of the project have already been completed. Till date, the Sardar Sarovar Project has been provided with Central Assistance of Rs.5375.3585 crore under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) which is highest Central assistance provided to any project in the country.

(d) The criteria being followed to declare a project as a National Project in the country.

(i) International projects where usage of water in India is required by a treaty or where planning and early completion of the project in necessary in the interest of the country.

(ii) Inter-State projects which are dragging on due to non-resolution of inter-state issues relating to sharing of costs, rehabilitation, aspects of power production etc. including river interlinking projects.

(iii) Intra-State projects with additional potential of more than 2,00,000 ha. and with no dispute regarding sharing of water and where hydrology is established.

Flood in North Bihar

447. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a breach in a dam across the Kosi river flooded large areas of North Bihar in August, 2008;

(b) whether the river has changed its course on a long term basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it will affect the scheme of inter linking of rivers in the area;

(e) whether the flood water was stored for water harvesting in any catchments area;

(f) if so, details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. A breach occurred in the Eastern Afflux Bund of Kosi Barrage near Kusaha (Nepal) on 18.8.2008.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. Efforts are being made to bring the river to its original course and to restore the embankment section to the original position.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Does not arise.